Pasadena Citizen



Young Thieves Harbor Stolen Tailgates

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In early December, a city of Pasadena employee was contacted by the La Porte Police Department in regard to a lead in a theft investigation.

The city employee received a call from a La Porte detective requesting permission to search the contents of a portable storage container on the property.

The storage container sits on city property, but is owned by the Pasadena Little League, which uses the adjacent ball fields.

"The detective had information that there was stolen property in that storage container," said Vance Mitchell, public information officer for the Pasadena Police Department.

The city of Pasadena employee contacted Pasadena police.

"The employee did not feel comfortable opening things because the containers were not city property," Mitchell said.

The Pasadena Police Department sent an officer to be present while the La Porte officials contacted the League president to open the container.

"They opened the container and inside they found 17 stolen tailgates," Mitchell said.

The Pasadena Police Department Auto Theft Division unit immediately began to match the stolen tailgates to original owners.

"They recovered the stolen property and eight of the tailgates have been returned to their owners," Mitchell said.

The findings solved cases for Pasadena, Deer Park, La Porte and two suspects, a 17-year-old adult male, and a 16-year-old juvenile male are facing theft charges. The juvenile suspect is a Pasadena resident.

Police went to the residence of the juvenile and found an additional tailgate and a four-wheeler which the juvenile admitted to stealing in Baytown, Mitchell said.

Both suspects were arrested and one suspect is being charged as a juvenile and the other suspect as an adult